Secretary level talks with Pakistan

1927. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether involvement of Pakistan during recent attacks in Mumbai on 26th November has affected the process of Secretary level and Home Ministry level talks between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government of Pakistan;

(c) whether full evidence has been conveyed to Pakistan that these extremists were trained by ISI and also have been given protection for safe landing in India; and

(d) if so, the action Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The involvement of elements in Pakistan in terrorism in India has been a factor overshadowing the overall context and content of Indo-Pak relations for a long time and has undermined progress in the bilateral dialogue process.

(c) The High Commissioner of Pakistan was called to the Ministry of External Affairs on 1st December 2008 and was informed that the recent terrorist attack on Mumbai was carried out by elements from Pakistan. Government expects that strong action would be taken against those elements, whosoever they may be, responsible for this outrage. It was conveyed to the Pakistan High Commissioner that Pakistan's actions needed to match the sentiments expressed by its leadership that it wishes to have a qualitatively new relationship with India.

(d) Government is determined to take whatever measures are necessary in order to ensure the safety and security of our citizens.

Deportation of Indian workers from Oman

1928. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oman has decided to deport nearly 3,500 Indian workers who overstayed in the country after the expiry of their visas;

(b) if so, whether the Oman Ministry has published a list of 3,497 Indians in a newspaper asking them to cooperate with authorities to facilitate their repatriation;

(c) whether the Indian Government has taken up this issue with the Oman Government;

(d) if so, the number of Indians who have so far been deported from Oman; and

(e) the steps being considered to see that such situation does not arise in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) An exercise on the part of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman to identify and repatriate overstaying Indian nationals is going on, under which the local

authorities have recently cleared the cases of 3498 Indian workers. The details of these cases were published in *Al Shabiba*, Arabic daily, on 09.06.2008.

(c) The two sides are in regular touch in the matter.

(d) Under the present scheme, till date 478 Indian nationals have been repatriated. Once the process is completed other cases will be dealt with similarly.

(e) In order to prevent the incidence of illegal immigration of Indian nationals, a number of pro-active measures have been taken which include:—

(1) Mandatory prior attestation of Service Agreements of semi-skilled and unskilled workers;

(2) Dissemination of information to educate the Indian workers in the Sultanate of Oman about their rights and duties;

(3) Introduction of Open House sessions on Mission premises on third Friday of every month to listen to the problems of Indian workers in an informal atmosphere;

(4) Introduction of free legal counseling sessions twice every week on Mission premises to advise and assist Indian workers on labour related matters.

List of most wanted persons

†1929. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the list of 'most wanted' persons has been submitted to a neighbouring country;

(b) whether it was discussed in the meetings held during last one-two months;

(c) whether it is a fact that this was one of the motives behind calling of ISI Chief; and

(d) the time when discussion was made on the subject with friend countries and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Since August 2004, lists of individuals wanted for terrorist acts in India have been handed over 10 times to the Government of Pakistan.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Since the terrorist attack on Mumbai, Government has received strong international support from numerous countries.

Calling of ISI Chief

†1930. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.